

~~SECRET~~  
THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

I. Current Situation:

- A. Arrest 12 leaders - 27 January.
- B. Army capable control; even among Druze tribes--heretical Moslems.
- C. Martial law, censorship; full story may not be known.

II. Shishakli ~~Has Been~~ <sup>PRESTIGE</sup> Seriously Weakened:

- A. Failed sell dictatorship to politicians.
- B. Also opposed by radicals, ex-army officers, extremist religious leaders.
- C. No popular support, weak cabinet.
- D. Increasing reliance on police.

III. Implications for United States:

- A. Preoccupied self-preservation.
- B. Unlikely cooperate with West on refugees, Johnston plan, economic aid.
- C. Opposition likely become more extreme.  
Assassination possible.